--- the “Imperial Tobacco” RED three digit codes on cigarettes - 1951-56 ---

According to an old collection purchased on auction many years ago the code numbers **129 - 130** and **134 - 138** were not used due to a plant strike. Chris Ryan reports that the ‘Imperial Tobacco’ strike began on August 14th, and ended on September 24th. It seems that the strike would cover the five weeks **134 - 138**, and the numbers **145 - 200** were not used. It would seem that **123** represented the 23rd week of 1951, and that the code numbers read the week of the year.

--- the cancellations read vertically down - 124 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1951	---	---	---	---	---	124	128	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	125	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	126	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	127	131	---	---	---	---	---
1952	---	---	---	---	---	---	225	---	233	---	---	240
	202	---	210	214	218	222	226	---	234	---	---	241
	---	---	211	---	219	223	---	---	235			
	---	208	---	---	---	---	228	232				
1953	242	244	---	---	250	252	254	---	---	---	---	264
	243	245	247	---	---	253	255	257	---	261	263	265
1954	266	268	270	272	276	---	284	288	292	296	300	304
	267	269	271	273	277	281	285	289	293	297	301	---
				274	---	282	286	290	294	298	302	---
				275	279	283	287	291	295	299	303	---
1955	308	312	316	320	324	328	---	---	---	344	---	---
	---	313	---	321	325	329	---	---	341	---	---	---
	---	314	318	322	326	330	334	338	---	346	---	354
	311	315	319	323	327	---	335	339	---	---	---	---
1956	356	360	364	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	357	---	365	---	---	---	381	---	---	---	---	---
	358	---	366	---	---	378	382	---	---	---	---	---
	359	---	---	371	375	379	383	---	---	---	---	---

On April 10th 1951, the *excise tax* was increased from 4¢ to 5½¢ per ten cigarettes, or any fraction thereof, while the *excise duty* remained unchanged at $ 6.00 per thousand small cigarettes. The three digit coding apparently begins in June 1951. These cigarettes had been manufactured after April 10th, but were not packaged under June.

--- Series “C” - “Imperial Tobacco”, Montreal - [6-10D] - 1957-1964 ---

--- two digit codes *vertically down* at the top - and 6-10D reading *horizontally* at the bottom - 62 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1956	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	I 4	---	---	---	---
1957	I 9	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1958	31	---	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
1959	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	---	51	52	---	---
1960	55	56	57	---	---	60	---	---	---	64	---	66
1961	67	---	---	---	71	---	73	---	75	76	---	---
1962	79	80	81	---	---	---	---	---	---	88	89	90
1963	---	---	---	94	95	96	97	98	99	---	12	14
1964	15	16	17	18	19	---	21	---	---	---	---	---

--- Series “C” - “Imperial Tobacco”, Montreal - [6-10D] - 1964-1968 ---

--- two digit codes *vertically down* at the top - and 6-10D reading *vertically down* at the right side - 22 copies to date ---

[★RC-386]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	22	---	---	---	26
1965	27	28	29	30	31	---	33	34	---	---	37	---
1966	---	40	---	---	43	44	45	---	---	---	49	---
1967	---	---	53	54	---	56	57	---	---	---	61	---
1968	---	64	---	---	---	---	---	---	71	---	---	---

The switch from Series “C” to the “Wings” Series occurs at [**70**], in September 1968 (see below), although this will vary with the stamp as the stock of the old Series “C” expired at different times in the twenty and the twenty-five cigarette values, and with the changing stock at the other Imperial Tobacco plants.

--- “Wings” Series - the two digit codes of “Imperial Tobacco”, Montreal - [10D-6] - 1968-1974 ---

--- with code *vertically down* at the top, and [10D-6] *vertically down* at the lower right - 12 copies to date ---

The switch from Series “C” to “Wings” generally occurs at about [**70**], although this will vary with the denomination as the stock of the old Series “C” expired at different times in each value.

[C-687]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1968	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	73	---
1969	75	---	77	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	86
1970	---	88	89	---	91	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1971	---	16	---	---	---	---	21	---	---	---	---	---
1972	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	35	---	---	---
1973	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1974	51	---	53	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The cancellation sequence runs to completion at **58** in August 1974, when the government ceased issuing the excise stamps. The example of ~~**59**~~ in the collection has been cancelled by diagonal markings.

At no point in any of these sequences have I found a copy coded with **13**, and it is a fair presumption that the company has avoided its use as a poor production ‘bad luck’ number.

To date I have not found **96**, **97**, **98** or **99** from 1970 on the “Wings” Series as produced by “Imperial Tobacco” in Montreal, by “Peter Jackson” in Guelph, or by “Houde & Grothe” in Quebec City.

[“Canadian Revenue Newsletter” - No. 50 - September 2005 - by Chris Ryan]

“The new 1971 stamps were initially prepared by BABN. However in September of 1972, the production of manufactured tobacco stamps was transferred to CBN. This transfer included existing die and plates since they were the property of the government, not of BABN. The CBN contract repeated the list of denominations given above and described the dimensions of the three styles of manufactured tobacco stamps. Meanwhile, BABN continued to produce all other Revenue Department stamps such as those for cigars and cigarettes.”

“Excise duty stamps for domestic tobacco products were discontinued on Monday, August 19th 1974. On that date all unused stamps in the hands of licensed manufacturers were to be returned to the local excise officer for a refund or credit of the duty they represented. In place of the government stamps manufacturers sealed their packages with their own stamp or label and made periodic payments of duty based on quantities of tobacco produced during each period.”

--- 20 Cigarettes - “Imperial Tobacco” - Series “C” - in vertical format ---

The following are the only “Imperial Tobacco” two digit vertical variant cancellation from the first series that I have found using the 3 mm. company coding 6-10D. They are probably so oriented to fit on a *flip-top* box, and *do not* form a separate sequence. Additionally there are three vertically arranged three-digit codes, but without the company code marking and thus possibly coming from their “Tuckett Tobacco” Division.

These are a packaging varieties fitting into the series from the preceding pages, probably used on *flip-top* boxes, and do not constitute a distinct numerical sequence.

File path is c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 20 cigarettes \ 6-10D – red numbers],
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